

Natural Science Council, grants 11-5471 and 11-5663 to JEL. We are grateful to the Galapagos National Park Service and Charles Darwin Research Station for their assistance.

#### NEVADA

*ASTRAGALUS GILMANII* Tidest. (FABACEAE).—Lincoln Co., Groom Mountain Range, ca. 110 km w. of Caliente, occasional on tuff, se. side of basalt cone just n. of Cattle Spring in scattered Pinyon-Juniper, T6S R55½E S18, 1830 m, 7 May 1985, *Marrs-Smith and Nachlinger 91* (NY, RENO, UNLV) (determined by R. C. Barneby, NY).

*Significance.* First record for NV and an e. range extension of ca. 215 km from the Panamint Mtns., Inyo Co., CA.

*ERIGERON OVINUS* Cronquist (ASTERACEAE).—Lincoln Co., Groom Mountain Range, ca. 110 km w. of Caliente, limestone ridge with *Cercocarpus ledifolius* and *Forsellesia nevadensis*, T7S R56E S6, 2260 m, 4 Jun 1985, *Marrs-Smith and Nachlinger 47* (NY, RENO, UNLV).

*Significance.* A w. range extension of 29 km. Known only from Clark and Lincoln cos., NV.

*POLYGALA SUBSPINOSA* S. Wats. var. *HETERORHYNCHA* Barneby (POLYGALACEAE).—Lincoln Co., Groom Mountain Range, ca. 110 km w. of Caliente, on volcanic tuff with scattered *Artemisia tridentata*, T6S R55E S13, 1890 m, 7 May 1985, *Marrs-Smith s.n.* (NY) (determined by R. C. Barneby, NY).

*Significance.* First record for Lincoln Co. and a n. extension of ca. 60 km. Previously known from Clark and Nye cos., NV.—GAYLE MARRS-SMITH, Dept. Biological Sciences, Univ. Nevada, Las Vegas, 89154; and JAN NACHLINGER, Biological Sciences Center, Desert Research Inst., Reno, NV 89506.

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## REVIEW

*Poisonous Plants of California.* By THOMAS C. FULLER and ELIZABETH MCCLINTOCK. 433 pp. + 16 color plates. University of California Press, Berkeley, CA.

This volume is one of the California Natural History Guides (#53) published by the U.C. Press. This interesting and readable book provides a broad overview of plant toxicity at an introductory level. The main body consists of brief descriptions of hundreds of plants and fungi poisonous to humans and animals. It includes brief descriptions of symptoms of poisonings, brief chemical identification of the toxins, and interesting anecdotes of poisoning case histories. Included also are several useful species lists such as the most seriously poisonous plants and fungi, plants most often toxic to livestock, plants causing dermatitis, plants causing hay fever and plants accumulating nitrates. Although most of the book deals with flowering plants, there are also brief chapters on toxic algae, fungi, ferns and horsetails, and gymnosperms. The flowering plants are treated alphabetically by family. The book is well organized and cross referenced so as to facilitate finding specific information about plants or toxins. There are separate indices of common and scientific names, as well as a general subject index. There are many (but not enough) good line illustrations, and over 60 small but very good color photos that stress diagnostic characteristics.

There is a separate chapter on the chemistry of plant toxins and derivative drugs which is written in non-technical terms understandable to the layperson. The basic chemistry of allelopathy and photosensitization are described briefly. The reader with more knowledge of plant chemistry, especially of secondary metabolites, will be tantalized continually and will want to dig back into the literature for more detailed information.

This book contains no identification keys, but provides an excellent starting place to learn about both California native and introduced toxic plants. Although the descriptions of the plants are brief and non-technical, they are accurate and stress the diagnostic characteristics. There is no attempt to duplicate the exhaustive, botanically complete plant descriptions and keys as in Munz's *California Flora* and Bailey's *Manual of Cultivated Plants*. Likewise, because the descriptions of the chemistry and symptoms of toxicity are very brief, and considering the omission of antidotes and medical treatments, it can be concluded that medical advisement is prudently beyond the scope of the book. The book will be able to provide a quick, preliminary identification of plant material, toxins, and symptoms.

*Poisonous Plants of California* is welcome due to the on-going interest in diet, health, herbs, and edible and medicinal plants. I will put this book on my shelf next to the mushroom identification books and alongside Lewis' *Medical Botany* and Lampke's *Plant Toxicity and Dermatitis*. As a botany teacher, I am often asked by students about the toxicity (edibility, caffeine content, medicinal use, etc.) of some particular plant (mushroom, weed, herb, ornamental, etc.). It will be the first book I pull off my shelf to answer those questions. This book will be useful to anyone with an interest in plant edibility, toxicity, or medicinal qualities. It will be especially useful to naturalists, field biologists, ranchers, emergency room physicians, and veterinarians.—ROBERT CUMMINGS, Dept. Biological Sciences, Santa Barbara City College, Santa Barbara, CA 93109.

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

### CORRECTIONS TO CBS SPEAKER SCHEDULE\* FOR 1987-1988

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker &amp; Topic</u>
Jan 21	Donald Koehler, Santa Barbara "Spectral quality of yellow flowers in relation to pol- lination"
Feb 20	Stephen J. Gould Annual Banquet, Topic to be announced
May 19	Meeting room at UC Botanic Garden, not LSB 2503

\* See Madroño 34(3):272.